

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075143

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

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SS-15 /140 R

DRAFTED BY ARA- LA/ APU: PSCHRAUD/ JLROUSH: DEB

4/18/73 EXT:20467/22153

APPROVED BY ARA: RAHURWITCH

LA/ DP: RROBERTSON (DRAFT)

CUSTOMS: REYMAN (DRAFT)

S/ NM: WFWEISS (DRAFT)

ARA: GLISTER

A/ AID: MWAMPLER (DRAFT)

ARA/ APU: WPSTEDMAN

OPS: SGUTH (DRAFT)

BNDD: RFRIAS (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT REQUEST

REF: (A) A-582, 15 NOV. 72

(B) BUENOS AIRES 781

(C) BUENOS AIRES 2080

(D) STATE 65747

(E) BUENOS AIRES 2315

(F) BUENOS AIRES 717

1. LA INTER- AGENCY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE)

REVIEWED ON APRIL 16 THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTS FOR GOA COAST

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PAGE 02 STATE 075143

GUARD AND BORDER PATROL (REFS A- D) AND TRAINING REQUEST FOR BORDER PATROL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE (REF E).

2. BORDER PATROL: COMMITTEE APPROVED EQUIPMENT FOR FOUR STRIKE FORCES (20 JEEPS, RADIOS AND BACK PACK RADIOS, APPROXIMATELY DOLS 92,000). COMMITTEE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PROVIDE TWO SPOTTER AIRPLANES, SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF INFORMATION SATISFACTORILY ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) ARE TRAINED PILOTS AVAILABLE TO FLY THE AIRPLANES?
B) HOW WOULD THE BORDER PATROL TAKE CARE OF THE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REQUESTED AIRCRAFT?

C) WHAT ARE THE EMBASSY' S PLANS FOR MONITORING THE USE OF US- PROVIDED EQUIPMENT?

3. TO SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE COMMITTEE, SUGGEST YOU ALSO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) IF THE BORDER PATROL DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE AN AIR UNIT, WOULD IT NOT BE FEASIBLE (AND LESS COSTLY) TO RENT AIRCRAFT ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS AS WE UNDERSTAND THE ARGENTINE CUSTOMS DOES?

B) IN PARA THREE REF (C), THE EMBASSY INDICATES ITEMS THAT IT WOULD PLAN TO INCLUDE IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE BORDER PATROL RELATING TO BUDGETING AND MAINTENANCE. WILL THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE CO- SIGN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT? IF NOT, CAN THE BORDER PATROL BE SURE OF MEETING ITS COMMITMENTS IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT?

4. COAST GUARD: COMMITTEE DEFERRED DECISION ON LAUNCH AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR ARGENTINE COAST GUARD PENDING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY REQUESTED D. IN PREPARING ITS RESPONSE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE EMBASSY COULD INCLUDE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, MOST OF WHICH AROSE IN THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:
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PAGE 03 STATE 075143

A) DOES THE COAST GUARD PLAN TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT?

B) HOW MANY BOATS DOES THE COAST GUARD HAVE ON ACTIVE PATROL DUTY?

C) IF THE US WERE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LAUNCH WOULD IT BE JUST ONE MORE LAUNCH PATROLLING THE SAME AREA AS THE EXISTING PATROL FORCE OR WOULD IT BE SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM-- PERHAPS OPERATING IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SPECIAL NARCOTICS UNIT?

D) DOES THE COAST GUARD HAVE ADEQUATE BUDGET FOR, AND AN APPROPRIATE SYSTEM OF VESSEL MAINTENANCE?

E) WHAT ARE THE EMBASSY' S PLANS FOR MONITORING THE USE OF US- PROVIDED EQUIPMENT?

5. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU WILL PROVIDE FOR OPERATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE BORDER PATROL AND THE COAST GUARD WITH BNDD AND CUSTOMS AS WELL AS COORDINATE THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AS THE BORDER PATROL AND COAST GUARD INITIATE A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

6. TRAINING: COMMITTEE APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BORDER PATROL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE WHICH WAS PROPOSED REF (D). IN SEPTEL BNDD AND CUSTOMS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS.

7. FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT APPROVED BY COMMITTEE WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL WHEN ABOVE INFORMATION RECEIVED, SO BOTH STRIKE FORCES EQUIPMENT AND PLANES (IF APPROVED) CAN BE HANDLED TOGETHER. DECON APRIL, 1975. PORTER

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